

FEB 27 1978

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



515208

Ms. Sandra S. Gardebring
Executive Director
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
1935 West County Road B2
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

Dear Ms. Gardebring:

This is in response to your February 7, 1978, letter requesting technical and financial assistance to address the ground water contamination problems of St. Louis Park, Minnesota. We are aware of the severity of this problem as we have been monitoring the situation since first being advised of it in October 1977.

To date, our principal contact regarding St. Louis Park has been with the Minnesota Department of Health. As noted in a letter regarding St. Louis Park's problem, dated December 2, 1977, from Mr. Thomas Jorling, Assistant Administrator for Water and Hazardous Materials, to the Honorable Wendell R. Anderson, "EPA does not have authority to issue grants for ground water pollution abatement" Realistically, there are no agency funding programs which can be of benefit to St. Louis Park in this situation.

On the positive side, I would like to offer whatever technical support is available within the Regional Offices. Mr. Richard Bartelt, Acting Chief of the Water Division's Ground Water Protection Section (Phone: (312)353-2151), will be able to discuss the available technical assistance with you at your convenience. To this end, we recommend that a meeting to discuss the alternatives for addressing this situation be scheduled in the near future.

Please be assured that we share your active concern regarding this matter and look forward to meeting with you in the near future. If we can be of any assistance in the meantime, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Valdas V. Adamkus
Deputy Regional Administrator

cc: Gary Englund

CONCURRENCES

SYMBOL	DRA				
SURNAME	Surveillance & Analysis				
DATE	Air & Hazardous Materials				
	SWD:Bartelt:mmr:2/24/78				

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Sincerely yours,

George R. Alexander, Jr.
Regional Administrator

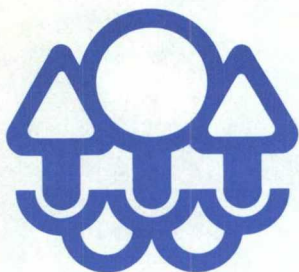
cc: Gary Englund

CONCURRENCES

SYMBOL	WSB	ORA	AKA	KEB	Director	SEA
SURNAME	Surveillance & Analysis	Mr. and Hazardous Materials	ACHM	ACHM	ACHM	2/23
DATE	2/23/78	2/23/78	2/23/78	2/23/78	2/23/78	2/23

9 FEB 1978

FROM Sandra S. Gardebring, Executive Director, XXXX MPCA			CONTROL NO. ORA - 267
SUBJECT AND DATE 2/7/78 Minnesota has been investigating an extremely serious ground water contamination problem in the City of St. Louis Park, MN			DATE REC'D 2/9/78
			DUE DATE 2/24/78
REFERRED (1) Water	(2) <i>Water Supply</i> 2/9	(3) REB	(4)
DATE 2/9/78	REPLY SENT TO		DATE RELEASED
REMARKS Prepare for signature of RA w/copy of reply and control slip for ORA.			ACKNOWLEDGED - DATE <input type="checkbox"/>
			NO ANSWER NEEDED <input type="checkbox"/> (Explain in remarks)



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

FEB 07 1978

RECEIVED

Mr. George R. Alexander, Jr.,
Regional Administrator
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

FEB 09 1978

EPA REGION 5
OFFICE OF REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Mr. Alexander:

For the past several years, the State of Minnesota has been investigating an extremely serious ground water contamination problem in the City of St. Louis Park, Minnesota. The problem resulted from the lengthy operation of a coal tar distillation process and wood treating operation. Investigations to date have identified soils which are contaminated with greater than 100,000 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) of benzene extractables near the surface and soils with greater than 10,000 mg/kg and 1,000 mg/kg at 30 feet and 60 feet respectively. Ground water in the area is approximately ten feet below the surface and highly contaminated. Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon concentrations of 3,400 milligrams per liter (mg/l) and phenolic concentrations of 50 mg/l have been detected 50 feet below the surface. Some of the water samples have been analyzed by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regional laboratory in Chicago. That analysis identified naphthalene, pyrene, phenanthrene and several other compounds, many of which are known or suspected carcinogens.

Geologic and hydrologic studies have indicated that the bedrock aquifers of the area have been contaminated to some degree and that the potential for even further contamination exists. The location of the contamination and the hydrology of the area are such that contamination of the aquifers which serve a major portion of the metropolitan area could result.

The State has identified a two-phase program to address the problem. The first phase of the program would require approximately \$300,000. It includes proper abandonment of wells which

Mr. George R. Alexander
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are serving as pathways for deeper contamination, further definition of the geology and ground water hydrology of the area and the design of a ground water gradient control system including the final design of the removal wells and a preliminary design of a wastewater treatment system to treat the removed ground water. The second phase of the program is the construction of the removal wells and the final design and construction of the wastewater treatment system. The cost of phase two could range from \$1 to \$10 million.

Due to the magnitude, complexity, and possible impacts of this problem, I request that the EPA provide whatever technical and financial assistance is available to help the City and State solve this very critical pollution and public health problem. My staff and I are available to brief you on the problem at your earliest convenience and look forward to your cooperation in resolving this difficult situation.

Yours truly,


Sandra S. Gardebring
Executive Director

SSG:da

cc: The Honorable Wendell R. Anderson, U. S. Senate
The Honorable William Frenzel, U. S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Donald Fraser, U. S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Alec Olson, Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota
The Honorable Irving Stern, Mayor of St. Louis Park
Dr. Warren Lawson, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Health